

5.9 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The purpose of this section is to address schools, libraries, and cultural facilities; parks, recreation, and open space; and public safety services. While several of these topics are optional for general plans under State law, they are integral to maintaining a high quality of life and livability in the City, a Major Strategy of this General Plan. As such, the Goals and Policies in this section promote the provision of adequate public services, parkland, and community and cultural facilities, along with trails that are linked to parks and open spaces.

5.9.1 Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Goals and Policies

Parks, open space and recreation facilities are critical in satisfying the diverse outdoor needs of Santa Clara residents and visitors, improving the physical health of the community and providing opportunities for social interaction. Open spaces should offer options for all types of activities, from passive rest areas and trails for walking or jogging, to fields and recreational facilities for organized sports. Overall, parks are an essential contributor to quality of life. As residential and employment populations increase and available land in the City becomes more limited, it will be essential for the City to actively seek additional park and open space.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

A combination of small and large parks are distributed throughout the City's residential neighborhoods, as shown on Figure 5.9-1 and described in Table 8.8-1 in Appendix 8.8: Parks and Recreation Inventory. The City's parks and recreation facilities are organized into categories based on typical size, programming and intended use.

Parks categories include:

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Open Space
- Recreation Facilities



Parks in the City range from smaller parks, like the 2.0-acre Agnew Park [top left] to the 11-acre Live Oak Park in Rivermark [top right]. Central Park is the primary community park, with 52 acres of open space, recreation, and community facilities [bottom left and right].

Parks and recreation facilities in the City are provided and maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation. In general, each one-square mile of residential area in the City contains a Neighborhood or Community Park located close to the center, ensuring that almost all residents live within a ten minute walk of a park. The centerpiece of the City's park system is Central Park, which contains active and passive recreation areas, and sports facilities. The industrial and business corridor between U.S. 101 and the Caltrain corridor contains limited open spaces with the exception of the Municipal Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club which serves the entire community.

In 2008, the City's Neighborhood and Community Parks served a population of approximately 115,500 residents, resulting in 2.4 acres of local-serving parkland per 1,000 residents.³

Included in this General Plan are policies to maintain a standard of 2.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 for residents as the City grows. In addition to providing adequate land, parks need to be appropriately sized to fulfill specific community purposes. Table 5.9-1 describes these park size standards. Maintaining these standards will ensure that current and new residents will continue to enjoy these facilities throughout the City.

Ideally, parks should be located within a ten-minute walking distance from residential areas and be provided near employment centers. Additionally, while parks should be generally spread evenly throughout the City, in order to ensure equitable distribution, parks may need to be closer together in areas with higher-intensity and higher-density development to better serve the demand.

³ Based on DOF January 2008 population of: 115,503 and including 272.5 acres of parks and recreation space. See Appendix 8.8 for a breakdown of park acreage.

Figure 5.9-1 illustrates potential future locations for new parkland. With the Future Focus Areas concentrated north of the Caltrain corridor, much of the new parkland is anticipated in this area. Figure 5.9-1 also identifies the general area north of the Caltrain corridor as the preferred location for a new Community Park and recreation facilities of at least 20 acres to serve the demand generated by future residential and employment center development. Finally, as shown on Figure 5.9-1, several mini parks are anticipated along the El Camino Real corridor to meet the demand generated by development there.

TABLE 5.9-1: PARK SIZE STANDARDS FOR NEW FACILITIES

	<i>Mini</i>	<i>Neighborhood</i>	<i>Community</i>
<i>Locations</i>	Appropriate in all areas, including residential and commercial, especially in high-intensity areas because of high demand. New park locations are not shown on the Land Use Diagram or Parks, Open Space and Recreation figure.	Medium- and high-density residential areas serving individual neighborhoods. Typically contain both passive and active uses, with one or more sports facilities.	Medium- and high-density residential areas serving not just surrounding neighborhoods, but the City as a whole; contain more specialized recreation/sports facilities.
<i>Size</i>	Less than 1 acre	1 to 15 acres	Over 15 acres

Regional Trails and Open Space Facilities

In addition to the City parks and recreation facilities, Santa Clara County operates a system of regional parks and trails that are open to local residents. There are no County parks in the City of Santa Clara. The County, with City assistance, however, is nearing completion of the San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Trail, which runs through Santa Clara neighborhoods and connects to the Guadalupe River Trail that runs along the Guadalupe River to Guadalupe River Park. Guadalupe River Park is located just to the east of the City in San José and extends three miles from Hwy 101 to the south, culminating in over 150 acres of parkland near to the Santa Clara City limits.

The San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Trail and the Guadalupe River Trail connect with the regional Bay Trail, which links perimeter open space areas along San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. The San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek Trail is comprised of approximately four miles of existing creek trail and bicycle lanes. Extension of this trail south of El Camino Real could provide potential connections to Central Park and future bicycle routes in the City.



**Figure 5.9-1
Parks, Recreation and
Open Space (2035)**

- Future Open Space*
- Existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
 - Community Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Mini Park / Plaza
 - Open Space
 - Recreation Facility
 - Regional and/or Private Facilities
 - Preferred Location for New Community Park
- Rail & Light Rail
- Stations
- City Limits
- Creek
- Trail
- Proposed Trail

* Size of symbol is not commensurate with projected acreage. Actual location and size will be determined in Planning Process.

**Central Park includes the Santa Clara Community Recreation Center, George F. Haines International Swim Center, Lawn & Bowling Green, and Veterans Memorial.

Source: Metrosan 2007, City of Santa Clara, 2009, Dyett & Bhatia 2009.



Located on the Bay, just to the north of Santa Clara (and connected to Guadalupe River Park through bicycle and pedestrian trails), the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge provides 30,000 acres of a habitat and conservation area for wildlife, migratory birds, and threatened and endangered species. Within Santa Clara, the 40.8-acre Ulistac Natural Area, located in Santa Clara along Lick Mill Boulevard south of Tasman Drive, is home to several natural Bay Area habitats. Opportunities for additional regional open space within the City are limited as most of the City is built-out. Enhancement of existing non-park open space, such as the Hetch-Hetchy Aqueduct right-of-way, east of Lafayette Street, and the City's two retention basins, located near the Baylands, have some potential as open space resources.

Private and SCUSD School District Facilities

In addition to City parks and regional open space and trails, there are several private and Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD) facilities that serve the community. The privately-owned Pruneridge Golf Course offers sports recreation opportunities in the community. In addition, SCUSD facilities include several sports fields adjacent to school properties that serve many Santa Clara neighborhoods south of the Caltrain corridor. Sports fields include the Townsend, Elmer Johnson, Lou Vierra and Washington Park ball fields.

The following Goals and Policies provide direction for expected new parks, open space and recreation in the City. Additional policies related to the disposition of surplus, unused or underutilized parks and open space lands and required land use classifications for new parks and open space lands are defined in the Discretionary Alternate Use policies in Section 5.5.1.

Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Goals

- 5.9.1-G1 Adequate facilities for physical activities that promote community health.
- 5.9.1-G2 Parks, trails and open space located within a ten-minute walk to residential neighborhoods and employment centers.
- 5.9.1-G3 New parks, open space and recreation provided with new development so that existing facilities are not overburdened.
- 5.9.1-G4 All new park, trail and open space facilities are accessible and provide connections to destination points and activity centers within the City.



The Santa Clara Youth Soccer Park [top] is one of many recreational facilities in the City. The City has trails along San Tomas Creek [center]. The Ulistac Natural Area is 41 acres of preserved open space [bottom].



Parks, Open Space and Recreation Policies



Parks provide a range of uses, from passive activities and amenities to recreation and attractions for all ages [open space at Rivermark, top and Central Park, center]. Community gardens can be a neighborhood option for fresh, local food as well as social interaction [Emeryville, CA, bottom].

- 5.9.1-P1 Develop additional parkland in the City so that it is integrated into neighborhoods and meets the standards for size, amenities and location to serve residents and employees.
- 5.9.1-P2 Develop new parks to serve the needs of the surrounding community based on the criteria defined on Table 5.9-1.
- 5.9.1-P3 Provide trails along creeks and other rights-of-way to link parks, open spaces, bicycle facilities and transit services with residential neighborhoods and employment centers.
- 5.9.1-P4 Provide connections between private and public open space through publicly accessible trails and pathways and by orienting open spaces to public streets.
- 5.9.1-P5 Encourage public visibility for all parks, trails and open spaces.
- 5.9.1-P6 Support construction of trails within the City of Santa Clara that connect to the Bay Trail, the Saratoga/San Tomas Aquino Creek and the Guadalupe River trails.
- 5.9.1-P7 Allow new parks in the general locations shown on the Land Use Diagram in all General Plan designations, except in areas designated for Light and Heavy Industrial uses.
- 5.9.1-P8 Encourage the extension of the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail with new development, where feasible. If it is not physically or environmentally feasible to extend the trail along the creek, utilize adjacent or near-by City ROW to accommodate an extension.
- 5.9.1-P9 Support access to local food sources by providing opportunities for community gardening and farmers' markets.
- 5.9.1-P10 Explore opportunities to partner with local private non-profits and public agencies, such as school districts, to provide community gardens and opportunities for community socialization in the City.

- 5.9.1-P11 Encourage the shared use of open space resources, such as school grounds, for neighborhood recreation to maximize public accessibility.
- 5.9.1-P12 Promote the preservation of open space and recreational areas on existing and closed school sites.
- 5.9.1-P13 Encourage public and quasi public agencies to provide public access onto their property for trails and other appropriate recreational purposes.
- 5.9.1-P14 Encourage publicly accessible open space in new development.
- 5.9.1-P15 Provide opportunities for private maintenance of publicly accessible open space and trails.
- 5.9.1-P16 Encourage non-residential development to contribute toward new park facilities to serve the needs of their employees.
- 5.9.1-P17 Foster site design for new development so that building height and massing do not overshadow new parks and plazas.
- 5.9.1-P18 Promote open space and recreation facilities in large-scale developments in order to meet a portion of the demand for parks generated by new development.
- 5.9.1-P19 Encourage comparable parkland outside the City, near jurisdictional boundaries, that is accessible to City residents and employees, and allow it to contribute to the 2.4 acres per 1,000 population standard if controlled, or partially controlled, by the City.



5.9.2 Schools and Community Facilities Goals and Policies

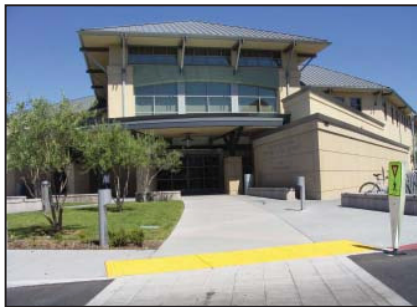
This section outlines existing public school enrollment and conditions, projected enrollment, and planned facilities. Community facilities are also discussed, including existing and planned community centers, museums, civic buildings and libraries. Public facilities are mapped in Figure 5.9-2.

Schools

Schools that serve children in grades K-12 who reside in the City of Santa Clara are operated by six school districts: Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD), San José Unified School District, Cupertino Union School District, Fremont Union High School District, Campbell Union School District, and Campbell Union High School District. In addition, the City of Santa Clara houses a number of private and charter schools serving these same grades.

SCUSD serves children in the cities of Santa Clara, Sunnyvale and San José, and is responsible for 16 elementary, three middle, two high, one K-8, and two continuation high schools, as well as one adult education school. The majority of students residing in the City of Santa Clara attend SCUSD schools. Three of the District's schools are located within the City of Sunnyvale and one is in San José. Cupertino Union also operates one school within the City of Santa Clara's boundaries. The remaining districts listed above accommodate Santa Clara residents within their respective boundaries, but do not operate schools within Santa Clara. See Appendix 8.11 for more detailed information about current school facilities, enrollment and capacity, broken down by district.

New development projected under the General Plan will fall primarily within the jurisdiction of SCUSD. Approximately 12,500 households are expected to be added to the SCUSD area, which would result in approximately 2,000 additional students.⁴ The Campbell Union (K-8) and Campbell Union High (9-12) school districts, which overlap, will realize approximately 500 additional households as a result of implementation of the General Plan, generating approximately 38 new K-8 and 42 new 9-12 grade students.⁵ SCUSD currently has four closed school

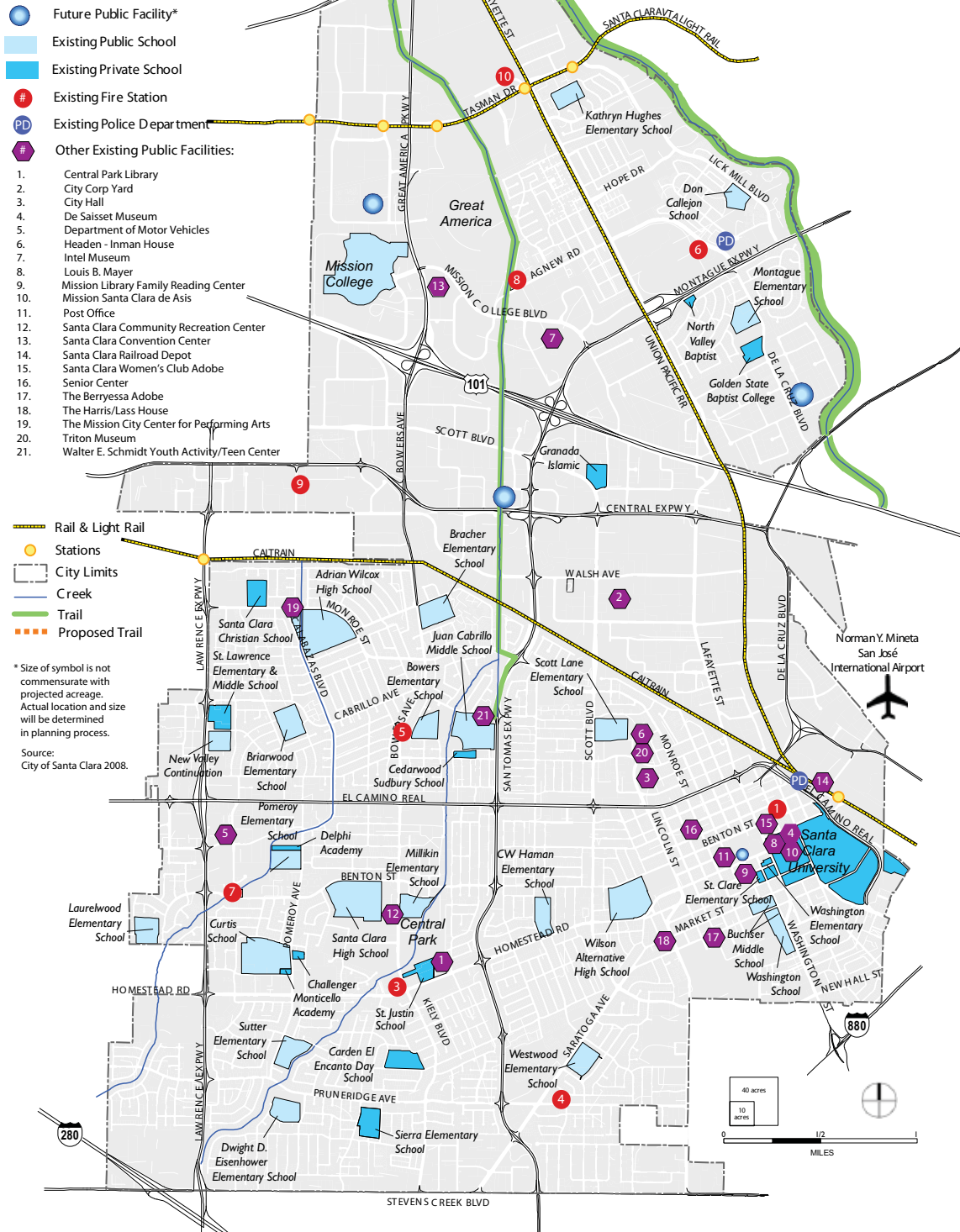


The Don Callejon School in Rivermark is the City's newest school facility [top]. Expanded in 2004, the Central Park Library serves an average of over 3,000 people per day [center]. The Santa Clara Senior Center plays an important role in the community, providing recreational and social support for the City's senior population [bottom].

⁴ This assumes that new housing is all multifamily, and the student generation rate is 0.16.

⁵ Ibid. The proportion of K-8 and 9-12 grade students was calculated for

Figure 5.9-2

Public Facilities (2035)



sites that could be used to serve new development. Alternatively, SCUSD may choose to modify school catchment areas or add modular classrooms to accommodate new students. SCUSD is also anticipating the construction of new school facilities in north San José as a result of an agreement with that city and future housing developers. These new facilities in San José will add more capacity for new students and can reduce the number of students now in Santa Clara facilities. The Campbell K-8 and Campbell 9-12 districts will be able to accommodate the relatively modest gain in students from the City by modifying school catchment areas, busing and adding modular classrooms.

Libraries

Existing libraries in Santa Clara are the Central Park Library, the main library, located on Homestead Road, and the Mission Library Family Reading Center, located in the historic core of the City. The Central Park Library is 84,000 square feet and was reconstructed and expanded in 2004. With more than 1.4 million visitors per year, and over 3,000 people per day using the library, the facility is able to handle the existing volume of people and activities. The Mission Library Family Reading Center, located on Lexington Street at Main Street, provides books and resources, community and group study rooms, computers with internet access, children and adult classes, and book clubs.

In addition to existing facilities, a 15,700-square-foot Northside Branch Library was approved for development in Rivermark. The design phase is scheduled to begin in 2010. Land has been set aside for this purpose.

Additional library facilities may be needed to meet the demand from the addition of approximately 33,000 new residents anticipated as a result of this General Plan. Given that the large Central Park Library facility is located in the southern portion of the City, it is relatively close to, and could serve, anticipated new development along El Camino Real, Homestead Road, Kiely Boulevard and Stevens Creek Boulevard. New library facilities may, however, be needed to serve the anticipated development in the northern portion of the City. This will need to be evaluated as part of the comprehensive planning process for new residential development in the Future Focus Areas.

the districts currently (0.473 to 0.527) and assumed to be the same for new development.

Arts, Cultural and Community Facilities

New growth as a result of the implementation of the General Plan is expected to increase the demand for arts, cultural and community facilities. This future demand does not, however, appear to exceed the existing service capacity or generate the need for addition facilities with the exception of facilities serving senior populations.

The City benefits from the following arts and cultural facilities:

- *The Berryessa Adobe* is the City's oldest adobe structure which features documents, objects, and other artifacts from the era before California's Statehood in 1850.
- *The de Saisset Museum*, part of Santa Clara University (SCU), is open and free to the public with art and California's native history exhibits.
- *The Harris-Lass Historic Preserve* was purchased and restored by the City and the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara to provide a community resource that demonstrates the City's history as a farming community.
- *Headen – Inman House* was originally part of the Headen estate and moved to its current location in the Civic Center in 1985. The Craftsman Bungalow museum house features the City's historical collection and other local artifacts safeguarded by the Santa Clara Arts and Historical Consortium.
- *The Intel Museum*, located within Intel Corporations headquarters, is an interactive showcase of the company's history and semiconductor technology that is open to the public year round.
- *The Louis B. Mayer Theatre* at the Santa Clara University has two professional quality theaters to house University and community productions.
- *The Lick Mill Mansion* and grounds are located at 4101 Lick Mill Boulevard, on the grounds of the Mansion Grove Apartment complex. Lick, who was a local entrepreneur and philanthropist as well as the richest man in California at the time of his death in 1876, built this Italianate mansion between 1858 and 1860. The grounds are open to the public during daylight hours, and visits to the



mansion can be arranged. The estate is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- *Mission Santa Clara*, also located on the SCU campus, dates back to 1777 and was the first outpost of Spanish civilization in the Santa Clara Valley. Today it serves as the SCU chapel and is open to the public.
- *The Mission City Center for Performing Arts*, located adjacent to Wilcox High School, is a joint venture between the Santa Clara Unified School District and the City of Santa Clara providing performance art facilities for school and community productions.
- *The Santa Clara Convention Center*, located on Great America Parkway at Tasman Drive, has fully-equipped facilities that accommodate meetings, trade shows, conventions, association gatherings, banquets and special events.
- *Santa Clara Railroad Depot*, located at the Santa Clara Transit Center, was built in 1863. The Depot now incorporates the Edward Peterman Museum of Railroad History and is located on Railroad Avenue at the Santa Clara Caltrain Station.
- *Santa Clara Woman's Club Adobe* was one of several continuous rows of homes built in 1792-1800 as dwellings for the Native American families of Mission Santa Clara and is among the oldest adobes in Santa Clara Valley.
- *The Triton Museum of Art* collects and exhibits contemporary and historical works of art with an emphasis on artists from the Greater Bay Area.

The City of Santa Clara provides the following community centers:

- *The Community Recreation Center*, located in Central Park is the hub of recreation activities and programs for the City. The City distributes a Recreation Activities Guide with class listings, events and programs by mail three times per year to all residents. The Guide is also available online.
- *The Senior Center*, located on Fremont Street at Monroe Street, offers a variety of ongoing recreational activities to

Santa Clara residents aged 50 and older. Services on-site include adult education classes, specialized workshops, notary, health insurance/Medicare representative, legal assistance and a nutrition program.

- *The Teen Center*, located in front of the Youth Activity Center on Cabrillo Avenue near San Tomas Expressway, offers a variety of activities and services to the teen community which consists of an after school program, recreation classes, Teen Breakaway (summer only) and special events.
- *The Walter E. Schmidt Youth Activity Center (YAC)*, is located at the corner of Cabrillo Avenue and San Tomas Expressway, offers active recreation programs for babies, toddlers, preschool, elementary school age, middle school and high school students.

The following Goals and Policies support coordination with school districts and provide direction for community facilities. Additional policies related to the disposition of surplus, unused or underutilized public/quasi public facilities and to the required land use classifications for new public/quasi public facilities are defined in the Discretionary Use Policies in Section 5.5.1.

Schools and Community Facilities Goals

- 5.9.2-G1 Schools and community facilities that meet the needs of all segments of the population.
- 5.9.2-G2 Adequate arts, cultural, recreational, schools and other community facilities in concert with new development.

Schools and Community Facilities Policies

- 5.9.2-P1 Provide a diverse range of community, art, cultural and recreational facilities to meet the varying needs of residents in the City, including youth and seniors.
- 5.9.2-P2 Periodically evaluate library services and facilities in order to respond to changing community demands.
- 5.9.2-P3 Provide library services that are accessible and of adequate size to serve community residents, particularly for Future Focus Areas, north of the Caltrain corridor.



The Santa Clara Police Headquarters [top] is located off of El Camino Real at Benton Street, adjacent to the Santa Clara Transit Center. Santa Clara Fire Station No. 1, located on Benton Street at Alviso [bottom], is one of ten fire stations in the City.

- 5.9.2-P4 Work with the school districts as part of the planning process for Future Focus Areas.
- 5.9.2-P5 Coordinate with Santa Clara Unified School District, Santa Clara University and Mission College to develop mutually supportive long range plans for school facilities.
- 5.9.2-P6 Coordinate with local school districts to share school district-owned facilities during non-school hours.
- 5.9.2-P7 Support efforts by school districts to maintain, improve and expand educational facilities and services, to meet the demands of new development.
- 5.9.2-P8 Cooperate with local school districts in collecting fees for development projects as required by State regulations.
- 5.9.2-P9 Prohibit new public and quasi public facilities on land designated for Light or Heavy Industrial uses on the Land Use Diagram, excluding public utility facilities.

5.9.3 Public Services Goals and Policies

Safety and security are essential and integral to quality of life in a community. Good public safety services play an important role in increasing livability. Crime and disorder in neighborhoods, parks and business districts can cause citizen frustration, uneasiness and fear. Community design elements, including lighting, separation between pedestrians and vehicles, and windows along street frontages, contribute to public safety. Active uses, as well as property maintenance, can help deter crime by providing surveillance and access.

Police Services

The Santa Clara Police Department (SCPD) has maintained a relatively low crime rate since the mid-1980s. Most common concerns expressed by residents and business representatives are graffiti, vandalism and drug activity. The Department currently has two police stations: the headquarters located on El Camino Real and a substation in Rivermark, near Agnew Road and De La Cruz Boulevard (shown in Figure 5.9-2). The SCPD also operates the Firearms Training Center, Tech Service Center, and 911 Dispatch.

In 2008, the City had 160 sworn police officers and 76 non-sworn personnel, divided into three divisions: Field Operations Division, Investigations Division, and Administrative Services. The SCPD's response time standard is three minutes or less for high priority calls. In 2006, the SCPD received 37,600 911 calls, and met this standard.

Fire and Life Safety Services

The Santa Clara Fire Department (SCFD) headquarters is located at Benton and Alviso streets, as shown in Figure 5.9-2. In 2008, the Department had ten fire stations throughout the City, with 179.5 paid personnel and 65 reserve employees. Each station is equipped with at least one three-person engine or ladder truck-company. Three stations also have a two-person ambulance that provides paramedic services. A Rescue Response vehicle and a Hazardous Materials Response vehicle are housed at two other stations. An increase in the City's senior citizen population could result in additional demands on the Departments's Emergency Medical Services.

The current SCFD response time standard is a three minute average for all areas of the City. This response time has resulted in a Class 2 ISO rating for the City which helps to reduce property insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. Neither current traffic flow nor building standards in the City have impeded SCFD's service delivery. The City also participates in the Santa Clara County Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Response Plan to further ensure that fires and other emergencies are handled efficiently.

The following goals and policies provide direction for public services.

Public Service Goals

- 5.9.3-G1 A safe and secure environment for people and property in the community.
- 5.9.3-G2 Public safety response-time goals are met throughout the City.

Public Service Policies

- 5.9.3-P1 Encourage design techniques that promote public and property safety in new development and public spaces.



- 5.9.3-P2 Provide police and fire services that respond to community goals for a safe and secure environment for people and property.
- 5.9.3-P3 Maintain a City-wide average three minute response time for 90 percent of police emergency service calls.
- 5.9.3-P4 Maintain a City-wide average three minute response time for fire emergency service calls.
- 5.9.3-P5 Maintain emergency traffic preemption controls for traffic signals.
- 5.9.3-P6 Maintain the fire and hazardous materials mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions.
- 5.9.3-P7 Encourage property maintenance and pursue appropriate code enforcement to reduce crime associated with blight.



Very little vacant land remains in the City [top]. Natural habitats have been preserved in the City, particularly along the San Tomas Aquino/Saratoga Creek [center] and in the Ulistac Natural Area. The Heritage Tree Inventory helps to protect older significant trees in the City [bottom].

5.10 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Environment affects quality of life, as well as physical, mental and emotional health. In Santa Clara, environmental conditions, and the patterns of urban and industrial development, can pose risks to human health and property. General Plan Major Strategies emphasize the importance of health and safety, and provide direction for sustainable, environmentally sensitive development to accommodate the City's growth based on the implementation of the General Plan. The Goals and Policies in this section promote the protection of existing habitats, maximize solid waste disposal capacity through recycling and composting, conserve energy and water resources, and protect people and property from natural and man-made hazards. The following Goals and Policies are organized based on conservation, air quality, energy, water, hazards and noise.

5.10.1 Conservation Goals and Policies

This section includes a description of the City's plants, fish and wildlife, including special-status species, as well as a discussion of planning issues and implications related to biological resources and the regulations that protect them.